



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Veterans Affairs to Hold Open House in Neola, Iowa**

**OMAHA, Neb., February 15, 2013** — A Veterans of the Armed Forces Open House to provide veterans information and assistance with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services takes place March 22 and 23 at the Neola, Iowa, Area Community Center, 110 N. 4th Street.

The VA is partnering with the Nebraska and Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, veteran service agencies, county veteran service officers and military transition assistance advisors.

Veterans and their family members with questions about benefits are encouraged to attend the open house between 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 22 or from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 23.

The goal is to increase awareness about VA and other benefits and services available to veterans, and to assist them with applying for these benefits.

Representatives from the following agencies will be available to provide veterans assistance and information: VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Veterans Benefit Administration Regional Office, Vet Centers and Nebraska and Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Community agencies that provide veteran services will also be available.

Veterans who are not currently enrolled for VA benefits are encouraged to bring their DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," to assist the agency counselors assess individual eligibility for VA benefits. VA staff will assist veterans to complete eligibility and enrollment applications.

For additional information about the event, contact Will Ackerman at 800-451-5796, ext. 94719, or Darlene McMartin at 712-328-5797

The open house is targeted toward veterans who live in the following counties: Audubon, Adams, Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby, Iowa; and Burt, Cass, Douglas, Otoe, Sarpy, and Washington, Neb.

#### **About VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System**

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>

#### For further information, contact:

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